

## Idaho PTE Summer Conference Survey Summary of Results

The following questions were designed to help guide the Idaho State Division of Professional / Technical Education staff on planning future summer conferences.

- Eighty nine percent of respondents worked in the secondary level of education and 11 % worked at post secondary. Total number of respondents was 640 (greater than 50% response rate).

Level of education you work in

		Response Total	Response Percent
Secondary (grades 7-12)		570	89%
Post Secondary		70	11%
		<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>640</b>
		(skipped this question)	5

- Sixty five percent of respondents preferred to attend Summer Conference during the month of June. Thirteen percent of respondents preferred July and 33% preferred August.

Months:

	1 Most Preferred	2 No Preference	3 Least Preferred	Response Total	Response Average
A. June	65% (368)	19% (108)	16% (91)	567	1.5
B. July	13% (59)	42% (186)	45% (199)	444	2.3
C. August	33% (158)	23% (108)	44% (209)	475	2.1
				<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>639</b>
				(skipped this question)	6

***Recommendation: Continue to hold Summer Conference the third or forth week of June.***

- The days of the week preferred to attend Summer Conference were Monday (75%), Tuesday (68%), Wednesday (66%) and Thursday (51%). Friday was less popular (27%) and Saturday and Sunday was definitely not a preference. The duration preference was three days (40%) as opposed to two days (21%) or four days (30%).

Days:

	1 Most Preferred	2 No Preference	3 Least Preferred	Response Total	Response Average		
A. Sunday	17% (63)	15% (57)	67% (249)	369	2.5		
B. Monday	75% (419)	19% (105)	6% (35)	559	1.3		
C. Tuesday	68% (360)	24% (127)	8% (40)	527	1.4		
D. Wednesday	66% (344)	19% (100)	15% (76)	520	1.5		
E. Thursday	50% (217)	35% (151)	15% (64)	432	1.6		
F. Friday	27% (106)	30% (119)	43% (172)	397	2.2		
G. Saturday	15% (53)	15% (54)	70% (251)	358	2.6		
				<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>638</b>		
				(skipped this question)	7		

***Recommendation: Hold Summer Conference Monday through Thursday, no longer than three to four days.***

- Eighty three percent of respondents preferred meeting all day (8:00-5:00) as opposed to all day and evenings (14%), mornings (40%), afternoons (23%) and evenings (3%).

***Recommendation: Schedule sessions from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.***

- The number of general sessions preferred was two (53%).

***Recommendation: Offer no more than two general sessions.***

- When looking at location preference 61% preferred holding Summer Conference in a different region each year, however 53% preferred it to be held in Boise.

Location

	1	2	3	Response Total	Response Average		
A. Different Region Each Year	61% (312)	25% (129)	14% (69)	510	1.5		
B. Boise Every Year	53% (272)	26% (132)	21% (107)	511	1.7		
				<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>634</b>		
				(skipped this question)	11		

Many commented that they like the conference in different location so that they can tour different industries and see different types of agriculture. Others commented on the quality of the conference being better when it was in Boise. Boise is the most convenient for teachers. Many mentioned that more people would come if it was held in Boise.

***Recommendation: Hold Summer Conference in Boise every other year and rotate around the state for those years that it is not in Boise.***

- The top motivators for attending summer conference are as follows:

	<i>Highly Motivating</i>	<i>Fairly Motivating</i>	<i>Combined</i>
-- Personal growth	(60%)	(33%)	(93%)
-- Receiving program updates	(70%)	(25%)	(95%)
-- Job knowledge/skill development	(81%)	(15%)	(96%)
-- Motivational	(51%)	(35%)	(86%)
-- Continuing education units/credits	(55%)	(31%)	(86%)
-- Sharing ideas and networking	(78%)	(18%)	(96%)
-- Curriculum/Standards updates	(58%)	(33%)	(91%)
-- Expenses paid by my school/college	(65%)	(24%)	(89%)
-- Across education job knowledge/skill development	(43%)	(45%)	(88%)
-- Program specific job knowledge/skill development	(72%)	(23%)	(95%)
-- Professional organization issues	(35%)	(46%)	(81%)
-- Student organization issues	(38%)	(40%)	(88%)
--Concurrent sessions	(35%)	(51%)	(86%)
-- Vendors/new materials & products	(43%)	(42%)	(85%)

- The lowest motivators for attending summer conference are as follows:

-- PTE Social Events	(16%)	(42%)	(42%)
-- Recognition/Awards	(8%)	(36%)	(56%)
-- S. PTE Foundation golf tournament	(6%)	(13%)	(81%)

Comments on Motivators: Relevance of material/sessions, college credit, support from school district (paid expenses and extended contract), more topics for Post Secondary teachers, more sessions for counselors. Place emphasis on networking and sharing, not just outside speakers, with "all the answers". I think the social aspect is critical, after all, it's on our own time, and voluntary. Program specific time is very important. Loved best practice sharing and want more time and energy spent on vendors. More specific training with forms, paper work and state required documentation ie 10D Forms, Budgets etc. Increased focus on curriculum updates. Summer Conference 2005 was an exceptional conference, full of excellent information. I would enjoy specific helps to make me a better teacher. Such as, handling discipline, specific organizational skills, help with lesson plans, how to handle the constant interruptions during teaching hours. I don't particularly care to watch people drink alcohol and get loud and vocal at the social events. Personally, I find it in poor taste for PTE to sponsor a social with alcohol and smoking. We aren't being very good examples to the students. Thank you for requesting my opinions Continue with programs like the trailer construction class that are useful on the local level. I would like to see Robert Hale present a class on CAD. A few very good grant writing people to teach those of us, who teach in a small school district, how to write grants competitively to ensure our students have the same opportunity as those from larger school. For the immediate future, Conference should solely focus on integration of academics into technical programs. If we don't, we won't survive. For those few teachers who are already integrated, they need sessions on marketing their integrated program, and getting administrators involved in their successes. Access to other teachers in a less structured format for round-table discussions on current issues. Access to program support staff from the state. Let's advertise a bus ride to Yellowstone where we view 2-4 hours of motivational and informational educational video on the travel bus as we drive. Use the Yellowstone adventure to give teachers a chance to visit and share their program ideas with each other. This should be held the last day of the conference and be optional. If we all go bus, we could pay the travel cost (about \$30 per person) individually if necessary.

***Recommendation: Summer Conference should encompass these motivators when applicable.***

- Seventy nine percent of responders indicated that they received reimbursement for expenses to attend Summer Conference.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS SURVEY!**